



Maryland Economic Update

April 15, 2016

Summary

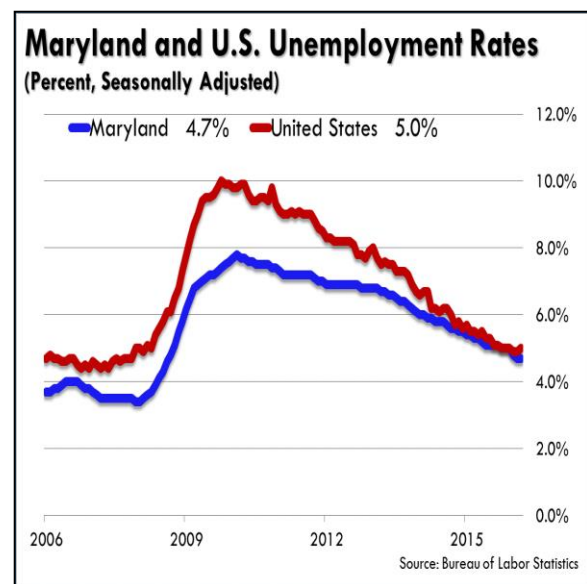
Nonfarm payroll employment in Maryland increased by 19,300 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.7 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Maryland Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in Maryland was unchanged at 4.7 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 1,077 in March to 148,102, while the labor force grew by 6,563 to 3,174,169. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 25 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Maryland. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Maryland stood at 5.3 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Maryland was 7.8 percent in February 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Maryland occurred in March 1982 when the unemployment rate reached 8.5 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Maryland was 3.4 percent in January 2008. The series low for the unemployment rate in Maryland occurred in December 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 3.3 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in March. March's unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Maryland Payroll Employment

Maryland nonfarm payrolls increased by 19,300 jobs, or 0.72 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 200. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Maryland increased by 62,400, or 2.36 percent. Maryland nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

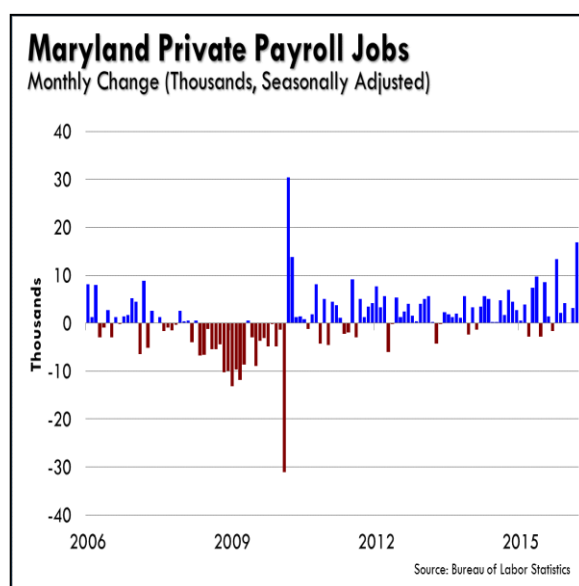
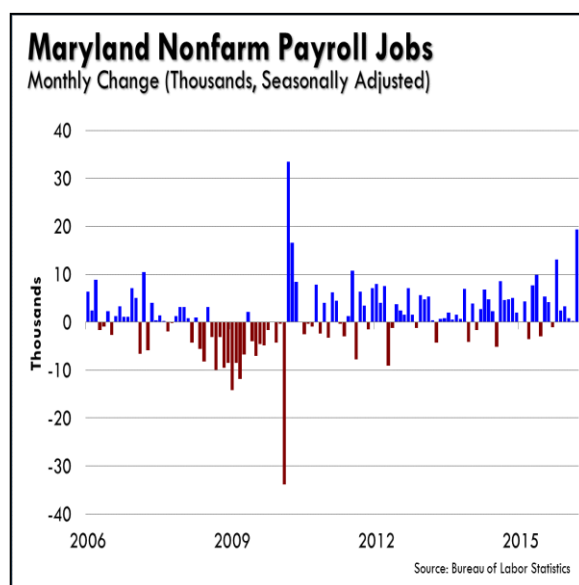
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in March, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,802,000 jobs, or 1.99 percent. Maryland ranks 17th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Maryland private sector payrolls increased by 16,800, or 0.77 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 3,100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Maryland increased by 62,300, or 2.91 percent. Maryland private sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 195,000 jobs in 1.99, or 0.16 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,681,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.25 percent.

Maryland ranks 15th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, total government payroll employment in Maryland increased by 2,500, or 0.50 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.07 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.09 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 2,500, or 1.02 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.02 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,100, or 0.99 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 300, or 0.12 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Professional & Business Services (+7,900) and Leisure & Hospitality (+5,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-900) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-800).

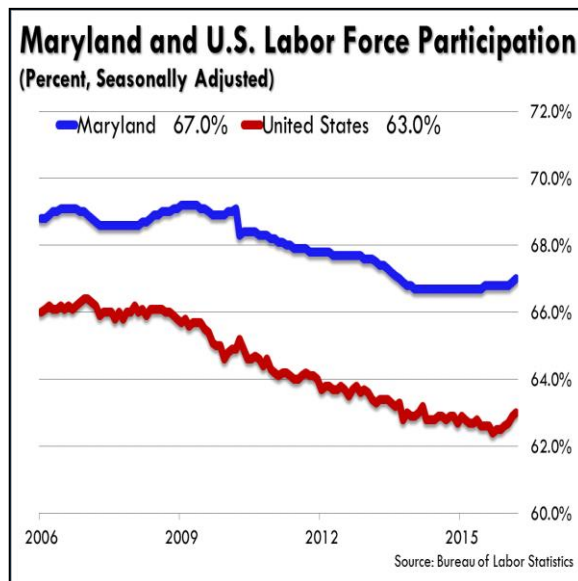
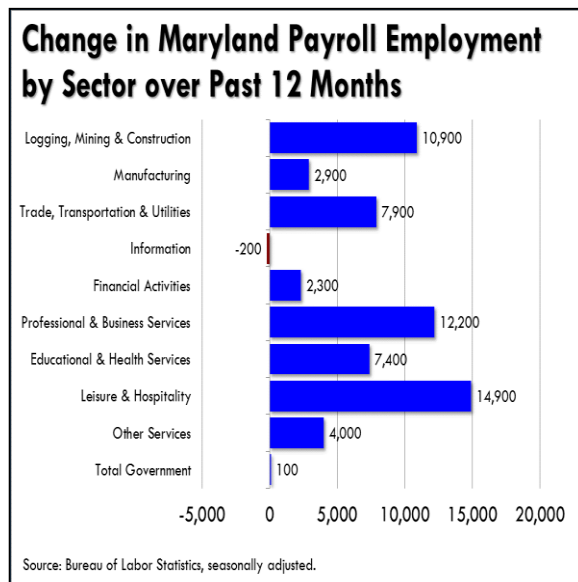
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+14,900) and Professional & Business Services (+12,200). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Information (-200) and Total Government (+100).

Other Maryland Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Maryland rose to 67.0 percent in March from 66.9 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 have a higher labor force participation rate than Maryland. The labor force participation rate in Maryland is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in Maryland was 69.2 percent in May 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Maryland occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.7 percent in June 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in June 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.3 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 63.0 percent in March, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Maryland civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 63.9 percent in March from 63.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 11 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Maryland. The employment-to-population ratio in Maryland is 0.7 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Maryland was 66.4 percent in January 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Maryland occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 68.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 62.7 percent in April 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 60.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.9 percent in March. That rate was 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 20, 2016. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 6, 2016.

